

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum-operated trash receptacle comprising a container; a liner disposed for placement in said container and receiving a trash bag, wherein at least one dimension of said liner is smaller than the corresponding dimension of said container, to form an annulus between said liner and said container; at least one elongated vertical opening provided in said liner, said opening communicating from the interior of said liner to said annulus; and a vacuum-producing device provided on said container, said vacuum-producing device communicating with said annulus, wherein a vacuum is created in said liner and the trash bag is deployed against said liner responsive to operation of said vacuum-producing device.

2. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 wherein said at least one opening comprises a plurality of openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

3. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 wherein said container is defined by a container wall and a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and wherein said vacuum-producing device is provided on said container bottom.

4. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 3 wherein said at least one opening comprises a plurality of openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

5. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 wherein said container is defined by a container wall and a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and wherein said vacuum-producing device is provided on said container wall.

6. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 5 wherein said at least one opening comprises a plurality of openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

7. (Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 wherein said at least one opening comprises at least two elongated vertical slots provided in said liner.

8. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 comprising a perforated container lid for removably closing said liner and said container and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and a container flange extending around the opposite end of said container wall and said liner is defined by a liner wall, a liner bottom closing one end of said liner wall, said liner bottom spaced from said container bottom to define said annulus and a liner flange provided on the opposite end of said liner wall from said liner bottom, said liner flange engaging said container flange for removably receiving said container lid and wherein said vacuum-producing device is mounted on said container bottom.

9. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 1 comprising a perforated container lid for removably closing said liner and said container and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a container bottom closing one end of said container wall, a container flange extending around the opposite end of said container wall and said liner is defined by a liner wall having a liner flange, said liner wall spaced from said container wall to define said annulus and said liner flange engaging said container flange for removably receiving said container lid and wherein said vacuum-producing device is mounted on said container wall.

10. (Currently Amended) A vacuum-operated trash receptacle comprising a container

having a container wall; a container flange provided on one end of said container wall and a container bottom provided on the opposite end of said container wall from said container flange; a liner disposed for placement inside said container; a liner flange provided on one end of said liner for engaging said container flange on said one end of said container wall when said liner is placed in said container and at least one vertical elongated opening provided in said liner; a perforated container lid for removably engaging said liner flange and closing said liner and said container; a liner bottom provided in said liner, said liner bottom spaced from said container bottom to define an annulus; and an air blower provided on said container bottom, said air blower having a blower suction extending through said container bottom and communicating with said annulus and a blower discharge located outside of said container, wherein a vacuum is created in said liner at the trash bag responsive to operation of said air blower.

11. (Original) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 10 wherein said at least one vertical elongated opening comprises a plurality of elongated vertical slots openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

12. (Currently Amended) A vacuum-operated trash receptacle comprising a container having a perforated lid; a liner disposed for placement in said container and receiving a trash bag, wherein the dimensions of said liner are smaller than the dimensions of said container to form an annulus between said liner and said container; ~~at least one opening~~ a plurality of vertical, elongated slots provided in said liner, said ~~opening slots~~ communicating from the interior of said liner to said annulus; and an air blower mounted on said container, said air blower having a blower suction extending through said container and communicating with said annulus and a blower discharge located outside of said container, wherein a vacuum is created in said liner at

the trash bag responsive to closing of said lid over said container and said liner and operation of said blower to transfer air from said liner and said annulus through said blower suction, to said blower discharge of said blower.

13. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 12 wherein said ~~at least one opening~~ slots are ~~comprises a plurality of openings~~ provided in substantially equally spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.